

## **Thomas Jefferson to George Walker, March 14, 1792, with Copy, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

**Jefferson to Walker THOMAS JEFFERSON TO GEORGE WALKER**

*March 14, 1792*

Your favor of March 9 came to hand yesterday with the letter of several of the proprietors of Georgetown, desiring the reemployment of Mj. Lenfant and were duly laid before the President. He would be happy to satisfy the wishes of those gentlemen wherever propriety and practicability admitted. The retirement of Majr. Lenfant has been his own act. Nobody knows better than yourself the patience and condescensions the President used in order to induce him to continue. You know also how these were received on his part. When the President sent his Secretary to take Major Lenfant's ultimate conditions, they were, as I informed you in my former letter a dismissal of the Commissioners or his independence of them. Such conditions could produce one idea only; that his reemployment was never more to be thought of. That it was believed he might have been useful, the efforts to continue him have fully proved, but that the success of the enterprise depended on his employment is impossible to believe.

[Elizabeth S. Kite, L'ENFANT AND WASHINGTON, p. 173. Reprinted through the courtesy of the Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md.]